

# Rhapsody J/30 348

Starboard Stanchion Base Repair

May 2006

The stanchion was unbolted and rotated away from the work area with lifelines attached.



The area around the cracked base was masked with about a 1 inch buffer zone so that grinding could be done with minimal damage to the surrounding area. After grinding the tape was cut with a knife blade for a smooth transition.

A flat 4" grinding disk was used to cut through gelcoat & fiberglass. Wet core was exposed with the consistency of a saturated sponge.



Wet core was removed and a pick used to reach under the “sandwich” and remove saturated core about 3 inches until firm core was hit. Once firm core was reached, a heat gun was blown in the area for about 1 hour to dry out core. The edges were feathered with the grinding wheel and the area cleaned with an acetone soaked rag stuffed in the void.



Once the area was dry, Interlux Epiglass Resin (9000 with 9002 Hardener) was mixed and thickened with the white powder Epiglass filler to the consistency of peanut butter. This was forced into the void where wet core was removed. A heat gun was used to accelerate hardening and also allowed the new filler to expand while curing to fill the void. Note the addition of masking tape after feathering.



Once hardened, the filler was ground just below the top part of the “sandwich”. Interlux Epiglass Resin (9000 with 9002 Hardener) was mixed and painted on. A few layers of glass cloth were overlaid to provide strength and build up the sandwich. Once cured, the surface was ground down to provide a small indent for the gelcoat layer, then it was cleaned with Acetone.



Here is where the professional do it better! Gelcoat was mixed with an attempt to create the off-white eggshell color. It looked good in the mixing bowl, but clearly did not match after curing. The gelcoat was spread with a plastic squeegee, then allowed to cure. Once the gelcoat was partially cured (test by touching a wet spot on the masking tape), the masking was removed. When fully cured, the gelcoat was light sanded, buffed and waxed. The stanchion mounting holes were drilled using the stanchion base as a guide.